



## North Carolina WIRELESS 911 BOARD

George Bakolia, Chair

Carolyn H. Carter, Vice Chair

March 31, 2006

To: County Managers  
City Managers  
Finance Directors  
PSAP Managers

From: Richard Taylor  
Executive Director

Re: 911 Funding of Mapping Technology

The North Carolina Wireless 911 Board has received several requests regarding the funding of a mapping technology known as Oblique Imaging. This is a new technology in the 911 arena and presented a considerable amount of discussion and research by the Board and its staff.

Based on that research, staff has found that there are at least two companies marketing Oblique Imaging in North Carolina, Pictometry and Aerial Cartographics of America, or ACA. There certainly may be others but are unknown to the Board at this time.

At the March 17, 2006 Wireless 911 Board meeting, the following policy was adopted by the Board regarding the use of wireless 911 funds for mapping technology:

1. The Board will reimburse PSAPs for the expenses of preparing or replacing a single base map, regardless of the technology used to create the base map.
2. The Board policies and procedures include a presumption that base maps must be periodically replaced; and that a reasonable replacement cycle is four (4) years. The replacement cycle should be a guide, but not a restriction when replacement of all or a portion of the base map is necessary for PSAP operations.

The base map is defined as the street / centerline map. This decision by the Board allows the PSAP to choose the type technology they prefer in using the data provided by a wireless 911 call to locate that caller.

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However, as an example, if a PSAP chooses Oblique Imaging over GIS technology, the expenses that are related to the GIS technology such as salaries, maintenance costs and equipment purchases and maintenance would not be allowed since those elements are not a part of the chosen technology of Oblique Imaging.

Also, note the expected life cycle for a chosen technology such as orthophotography or oblique aerial imaging, is four years. It is understood that some counties or cities may be experiencing accelerated growth and the four year cycle may not be adequate. The four year cycle is a guide and not a restriction. A city or county may seek a variance to the guide by submitting justification to the Board for consideration.

As with any technology, change is inevitable. The North Carolina Wireless 911 Board will continue to explore and identify new technologies as they relate to providing wireless 911 services in our State. As questions arise, please feel free to contact myself or the Wireless 911 staff so that we may assist you in every way possible.

Sincerely,

Richard Taylor  
Executive Director

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